



REPORT/RECOMMENDATION

To: MAYOR AND COUNCIL	Agenda Item # <u>IV. F.</u>
From: Wayne D. Houle, PE Director of Engineering	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Information
Date: August 6, 2012	
Subject: Elimination of 2005 Edina Transportation Commission Policy and the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan	

Recommendation:

Recommend elimination of the 2005 Edina Transportation Commission Policy and the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan.

Info/Background:

The Edina Transportation Commission is requesting that the City Council eliminate the 2005 Edina Transportation Commission (ETC) Policy and the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP) as per the attached ETC Report to the City Council.

ATTACHMENTS:

ETC Report to the City Council dated July 5, 2012
ETC Minutes regarding ETC policy and NTMP dated June 21, 2012
Memo from Jennifer Janovy to ETC, dated June 21, 2012

ETC REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

SITUATION

The Edina Transportation Commission Policy was adopted by the City Council in April 2005. The Policy incorporates the Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP).

Advances since 2005 have made the ETC Policy obsolete, For example:

- The ETC ordinance was changed in 2011
- Specific policies were incorporated into the 2008 Comprehensive Plan
- Several short- and long-term goals in the Policy have been met
- There has been little demand for the current Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (NTMP)

Because the Policy is obsolete it is rarely consulted.

As part of Living Streets policy development, the Living Streets working group, engineering staff, and consultants are reviewing city ordinances, policies, and engineering standards with the intent to revise or eliminate those ordinances, policies, or standards that are inconsistent with Living Streets.

The ETC considered the information in this report at our June 21, 2012 regular meeting and voted to forward this information and our recommendation to the City Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting. An ETC member can attend this meeting if needed to answer questions.

BACKGROUND

Ordinance change

The Policy references Section 1225 of City Code (ETC Policy and Establishment, Purpose and Duties, and Membership). This Section was renumbered and fully revised in 2011.

Policies incorporated in Comprehensive Plan

The Policy includes specific policies related to Roadway Design; Roadway Function and Access; Roadway Maintenance and Operation; Transit/TDM; Parking; Pedestrian/Bicycle; Goods Movement; and Funding and Jurisdiction. These policies incorporated and added to policies in the 1999 Transportation Plan. All of these policies, with the exception of two, were included in Chapter 7 of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.

Policy goals achieved

The Policy includes short-term goals that have been met:

- Review and approve Transportation Commission Policy

- Review Local Traffic Task Force Findings and Recommendations and rank the six "issues areas"
- Review and approve a Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan

The Policy includes long-term goals that have been met or are ongoing:

- Review and update local roadway functional classification
- Review and make recommendations for collector and arterial roadway planned improvements

Neighborhood Traffic Management Plans (NTMP)

An initial survey of data indicates that since the Policy was adopted in 2005 there have been three resident requests for neighborhood traffic management plans. These were:

- Schaefer Road (between Interlachen Boulevard and Parkwood Road)
- Wooddale Avenue (between 50th and 58th Streets)
- Halifax Avenue

Schaefer Road was one of seven traffic concern areas scored and ranked in 2005 (ranking 6th). The ETC did not recommend an NTMP.

Wooddale Avenue (50th to 58th) was scored and ranked in 2006. It came in first against four areas scored and ranked the previous year. Engineering staff proposed re-striping the roadway, increasing enforcement, and installing a permanent speed indicator sign. An NTMP was not completed.

It appears that the annual scoring and ranking of traffic concern areas ended in 2006.

In 2008, residents on Halifax Avenue submitted an NTMP application. In 2009, Engineering staff surveyed residents to see if they were still interested in an NTMP. Fewer than half of the surveys were returned, leading staff to recommend against an NTMP.

Of the traffic concern areas recommended for scoring and ranking in 2005 by staff, none were recommended for an NTMP. Those that have been addressed have been through other means. For example, NE Edina and W. 70th were addressed through traffic studies. The High School area was addressed through a staff-initiated re-striping plan.

In June 2010 the ETC voted to update the NTMP to include Education and Enforcement sections. These sections are typically found in NTMP policies.

In October 2011 Council member Bennett requested that the NTMP policy be used, updated, or eliminated.

ANALYSIS

There are exceptions to every policy; however, when exceptions become the rule, the policy is no longer an effective tool for guiding decisions. This is the case with the NTMP.

Engineering staff routinely receive traffic concerns from residents; however, these concerns are not annually scored and ranked. Traffic calming requests are handled directly by staff, the Traffic Safety Committee, or as part of street reconstruction projects.

This varied approach to addressing traffic concerns has the benefit of flexibility, but can also make it difficult for residents to understand the process.

Thinking about traffic calming has evolved since the NTMP was adopted. Whereas in the past, the focus was on specific traffic calming measures, such as speed humps or diverters, the focus now is on road diets, the five E's (Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering, and Evaluation), and Living Streets. This calls for a new kind of NTMP. A *Living Streets NTMP* is anticipated to be developed as part of a Living Streets Policy and Implementation Plan.

Policies within the ETC Policy are now included in Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan. The establishment and policy, purpose and duties of the ETC are outlined in the ETC ordinance. Several short-term and long-term goals in the Policy have been achieved. A Living Streets Policy and Implementation Plan will provide further guidance. The ETC Policy is no longer needed and should be retired.

RECOMMENDATION

The ETC recommends that the City Council eliminate the 2005 ETC Policy and NTMP.

CONNECTION TO WORKPLAN

This recommendation is related to Living Streets policy development.

Prepared by: Jennifer Janovy

Reviewed by: Paul Nelson, Surya Iyer

Edina Transportation Commission Minutes of June 21, 2012

Living Streets Working Group Update

Member Thompson said the group met on June 14 and the consultants shared a report that mirrored LA's Living Streets policy. He said the working group will be reviewing the report and giving feedback and the rest of the ETC can also provide feedback. The consultants will be presenting their findings and recommendation at the July ETC meeting. This will be followed by presentations to other groups to get their input.

Member Janovy said there was a Living Streets related item was on the City Council agenda recently, vacation of easement in the Morningside area, and the City Council did not approve it. She said this is consistent with the Living Streets draft policy. She said further that there are right-of-ways or undeveloped land, like the vacation that was not granted, that could be used as short-cut walkways for pedestrians and they should be inventoried. She asked if they were already inventoried and staff said no.

Transportation Options Working Group

Member Whited said the working group is starting over by reviewing their charge and then they will create a checklist of community needs. She said member Brown has been working on an Edina street car option that could move people around the shopping areas that he would like to present to the ETC. She said he has spoken with the Chamber of Commerce, Southdale Hospital, and is in talks with Target for possible funding. This would be modeled after one in Oregon.

France Avenue Pedestrian and Bike Crossings

Member LaForce gave an update on Stakeholder 1 meeting. He said they were asked to create a grand vision, which they did, only to be reminded in the end that they only had a small amount of money for three intersections. He said he was not sure why they took this approach. Member Iyer expressed the same feelings considering the financial constraints. Member Janovy said she felt the same way and that they did not provide concrete information on certain design aspects. Regarding the grand vision, she said there is money in the CIP for studying the whole area and they would like whatever is done now, to be based on the grand vision. She said the urban design portion was not presented in a context based on this project. Member Bass said she appreciates the opportunity to think longer term than they have funding for and the approach may have been to let the Hennepin County staff that was in attendance see what the City's grand vision is for France Avenue.

The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 26. Member Iyer suggested making the agenda clearer for the next meeting, including the desired outcome.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PETITIONS – None

CHAIR AND COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Janovy handed out a memo on the ETC policy and the NTMP for future discussion or an advisory communication with a recommendation to eliminate them. Chair Nelson said he spoke with city engineer Houle and he suggested waiting until the Complete Streets policy is done because other policies will become obsolete at that time. Member Janovy said waiting to do everything at once could complicate things.

Motion was made by Member Janovy and seconded by Member Iyer to recommend an advisory communication to the City Council recommending elimination of the ETC policy and the NTMP, which is part of the ETC policy. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Member Bass said the Edina Community Education received a grant funding from Blue Cross Foundation to do a social connectedness project and they are focusing on the Parklawn Neighborhood to do a series of 'meet on the sidewalk' to get to know the neighbors. The first meeting was last Tuesday and it was attended by the Police and Park and Recreation Departments, as well as Community Education. She said Community Education and Park and Recreation

ETC POLICY AND NTMP MEMO TO ETC

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RECOMMENDATION

Place this on upcoming agenda to discuss. Consider recommendation to City Council to eliminate ETC Policy and NTMP.